



ROBERT GARDINER WILSON, JR.

Imperial Potentate

OF THE

Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine

FOR NORTH AMERICA



Official Visitation to Aleppo Temple

An Outstanding Event in Shrine History

The Imperial Pageant

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST IMPERIAL POTENTATE FROM MASSACHUSETTS

ROBERT GARDINER WILSON, JR.

Wednesday Evening, December 12, 1951

GRAND HALL, MECHANICS BUILDING, BOSTON, 7:00 P.M.

[*Grand Hall Entrance*]

The pageant, given by Aleppo Temple at the Imperial Council Session in New York during the Induction and Installation of Imperial Potentate Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr., will be re-enacted under the direction of our Oriental Guide, Herman C. McStay.

A beautiful and impressive ceremony depicting the life of our Imperial Potentate and the history of Shrinedom.

PROGRAM OF THE EVENING

ORGAN CONCERT: 6:30

IMPERIAL PAGEANT: 7:00

IMPERIAL POTENTATE'S ADDRESS: 8:00

ENTERTAINMENT: 8:30

IMPERIAL POTENTATE'S RECEPTION: 9:30

An invitation is extended to the ladies of Nobles of Aleppo. These invitations may be obtained by immediately requesting them by mail, addressed to Pageant Committee at 97 Huntington Avenue, Boston 16, Mass. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope to insure return of invitation. The capacity of our hall necessitates limiting the number of ladies who can be admitted and still have ample seats for our Nobles who will attend this most unusual event in Aleppo's history.

Applications will be honored up to the capacity set aside for this purpose. Regrets will be returned when there are no more seats.

Doors will be opened for admission of ladies at 6:30 P.M. Ladies: Present your invitation at entrance to Grand Hall. Nobles admitted by presenting 1951 Shrine Card.

Informal Dress

Nobles wear your Fez

ALEPPO TEMPLE



A.A.O.N.M.S.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FALL CEREMONIAL
and
OFFICIAL VISITATION
of the

Imperial Potentate

Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr.

Wednesday, December 12, 1951

MECHANICS BUILDING, BOSTON

HONOR OUR OWN IMPERIAL SIR WITH A GRAND
"IMPERIAL POTENTATE'S CLASS" OF CANDIDATES

BUSINESS MEETING INITIATION OF CANDIDATES RITUALISTIC WORK IN FULL FORM
PAUL REVERE HALL, 4:00 to 5:00 P.M. Enter at 139 Huntington Avenue (Grand Hall Entrance)

Buffet Dinner, for Nobles Only

Grand Banquet Hall, 5:00 to 6:45 P.M. Doors Open to Banquet at 5:00 P.M.
Enter at 139 Huntington Avenue

*Your 1951 Shrine Card will be Necessary for Admission to Afternoon Meeting, Initiation of
Candidates and Buffet Dinner*

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING PETITIONS:

All petitions for membership to be acted upon at this meeting must be
in the Recorder's Office not later than 4:00 P.M., Monday, December 10
(2 days before the meeting).

Attest:

Harvey B. Legge

Recorder

Arthur V. Veiley

Illustrious Potentate

THE POTENTATE'S MESSAGE



On October 6th, the day after our last Ceremonial, your Potentate and Mrs. Seiler began a journey to Honolulu to join the Imperial Potentate's party on the occasion of his official visitation to Aloha Temple. The first leg of the journey was by plane to San Francisco and there we joined the Imperial Potentate's party aboard the S.S. *Lurline*. A very delightful trip of five days on the calm sea afforded our group an excellent opportunity for rest and relaxation. Our own Imperial Potentate, Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr., enjoyed a well earned vacation and made the most of the sun-deck. Waikiki Beach was his daily rendezvous after the strenuous first days.

At Honolulu, Illustrious Potentate Hosmer Rolph and his Divan welcomed us and we were later greeted at the pier by the Uniformed Units and ladies of the Aloha Temple Divan. leis of beautiful flowers were placed around our necks and the customary Aloha welcome was received by each Noble and lady. We were greeted at the Governor's Palace by the Governor of Hawaii and the Mayor of Honolulu. From there one occasion followed another, including, one night, a meeting of the fraternity at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Our Imperial Potentate, Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr., was much in demand while we were on the islands, making one address after another, including one at Rotary and a church sermon.

To attempt to describe this trip in detail would require much more space than is available. However, I believe you will all be interested in a few of the outstanding points of Hawaii. The Hawaiian people are a blending of several inter-married races, which brings forth a very happy and industrious, English-speaking, culture. The Hawaiian Islands are of volcanic origin. On the island of Hawaii we drove across a volcanic deposit which was still hot, yet was a year old. Mauna Loa is an active volcano and erupted recently: in 1942, 1947 and 1950, and it is estimated by scientists that it will erupt again in 1954. 625,000,000 cubic yards of AA, or clinker deposit flow, reached the ocean in the last eruption. The city of Hilo has been in its path, and here over 100 persons met their death in 1942. Today, the danger can be averted by the use of U.S. Air Force planes bombing a channel to the sea. The temperature of the gas at the mouth of the fissure reaches 2,000°F., but the AA cools very rapidly when exposed to the air. In a matter of a few weeks a fine moss growth forms, followed by ferns and later by trees and fertile soil. After seeing the results of this spectacle it is my ambition to witness the 1954 eruption.

The production of sugar cane and pineapples is the major agricultural enterprise of these islands. The most modern methods of growth and harvesting have been developed, resulting in the greatest production per acre of any area in the world. Kona coffee from the Kona area of Hawaii has reached a high point of popularity in Honolulu. Cattle raising, in the Highlands, is also becoming a major factor in the Hawaiian economy.

The members of Aloha had arranged a program which included many presentations of the Hula dance, accompanied by real Hawaiian musicians. If one were able to follow these interpretations, he would understand the history of these beautiful islands. Native feasts and receptions also occurred throughout our stay of ten days.

Our return trip to San Francisco offered another five days of relaxation. Our party attended the reception to the Imperial Potentate at the Memorial Opera House, where the U.N. had held its meetings. Here, another fine message was delivered by the Imperial Sir. Mrs. Seiler and I left the party there and returned to Boston, taking a plane to Shreveport, Louisiana, and motoring the last 1700 miles.

The trip afforded us an opportunity to visit three more of our hospitals for crippled children: at Honolulu, San Francisco and Shreveport. The smiling faces of these children, in an environment of love and understanding, will always remain in our memories, giving us further confidence in the value of our circus, which was to follow shortly after our return to Boston.

The plans for the Aleppo Circus had been formulated just prior to the Hawaiian trip and were left in the hands of a very efficient committee. From my observation, if the circus did nothing but keep before the public the charitable side of Shriners in their consideration of children in general, and more especially the underprivileged and crippled, this could easily be deemed good public relations.

At the inception of plans for the Shrine Circus, it was found necessary to form a corporation that would operate for the benefit of Aleppo, without involving its members in unnecessary obligations. Those who

volunteered for assignment and had the necessary time to devote, were your Potentate, as President and General Chairman, Harvey Leggee, Executive Secretary, Benjamin Vaughan as Treasurer, Walter Kammler as Clerk, Edgar Turner as Program Manager and Francis Sagle as Assistant to the Chairman. Willard Lombard was named as Counsel. Everyone of these members was doubly aware of his combined responsibilities as a Shriner.

We had the benefit of ten years of able circus administration by our Past Potentate and now Imperial Sir, Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr. We also had the accumulated efforts of all our Past Potentates in building up a loyalty among the Uniformed Units. These were our assets and we were engaged upon a \$100,000 enterprise with a matter of six weeks preparation before us.

Harvey Leggee was to burn many hours of midnight oil before the show was over. Major Vaughan was to organize the Uniformed Units into ticket takers, ushers and guards, and under him, Frank Watson and his Degree Staff were to be escorts to nearly 10,000 children from 75 social organizations from Greater Boston and as far distant as Hyannis on the Cape.

Edgar Turner's assignment was one of thirty days of relentless effort to procure advertising and arrange a beautiful program. Again this work was carried on through the efforts of the Uniformed Units.

George Weeks was in charge of music and entertainment, composed of the Band under the leadership of Walter Smith, The Oriental Band under Frank Warren, and the Chanters conducted by Earl Weidner.

Gerald Zedren and Dr. Salerno gave personal attention to our first aid responsibilities, both among the performers and the public.

Francis Sagle and Benjamin Vaughan gave able and tireless assistance and direction from the first opening of the circus to the last closing of its doors.

Then the faithful members of our Uniformed Units, who made such a favorable impression on our audiences were under the very able direction of Walter Benson, Harold Todd, Bill Sharpe, Ben James, Jim Babcock, Charlie Taylor, Herb Chantler, Carl Parker, Frank Breed, Ray Fridolin, Leslie Dixon, Bill Odell, Harold Burr and Herb Lynn. If I have missed some, and I know I must have, it is not for lack of appreciation.

As this goes to the printer, our financial success is assured and many children in Greater Boston are happy because of the generosity in purchasing tickets shown by the members of Aleppo and other Boston citizens.

At my attendance in several Shrine Temples in New England there were reverberations of our participation at the Imperial Sessions in New York. Compliments were widespread, because of the many planned events in which members of Aleppo were privileged to participate. Of special note was the behind-the-scenes television program put on at the Center Theatre by the Firestone Hour, which 2,000 of us were able to attend due to our Chief Rabbab Arthur MacKenzie's excellent contact with the entertainment world.

This reminds me of an experience in the two parades, where the youngsters on the route of march kept saying, "Hello Andy!" It was not until later that I realized that Arthur, in providing the brightly painted Ford, had, of course, put my name and title on each side.

On November 13 your Potentate and his Divan, together with the Aleppo 3rd Degree Team, made a visit to Winthrop Lodge, where a memorial meeting was dedicated to our former Ritualistic Degree head, Wilfred Mills. Billy, as we affectionately called him, was the organizer in 1935 under Past Potentate Clarence MacKenzie, of our Aleppo Temple Ritualistic Degree Team and served in this capacity for over fourteen years. Right Worshipful and Noble Fred Duncan had arranged this program for us, which was very effectively carried out under the leadership of Edgar Patterson.

Our membership is at its highest point in twenty years, and with the assistance of the Nobles in producing a class of candidates which will justly do honor to our Imperial Potentate on December 12th, we may exceed the number of candidates admitted in any year in the last two decades. This can be accomplished with the help of every Noble. No such opportunity has ever come to the Shriners of Aleppo — to honor an Imperial Potentate from Massachusetts, our own Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr.

ANDREW S. SEILER
Illustrious Potentate